



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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CAMPAIGN 2000: CONTRACTING OUT IS ON CALIF. BALLOT. 2ND ROUND IN A SPECIAL INTEREST WAR.

Editor's note: The first initiative to qualify for the Nov. 7th ballot is a measure which overrides a Calif. Supreme Court decision which allows private sector engineers and architects to compete on an equal footing for public works projects. This special interest battle is between Consulting Engineers & Land Surveyors of CA (CELSOC) – sponsors of this as yet unnumbered initiative AND Professional Engineers in Calif. Govt. (PECG). Here's our first update & analysis...

...Some sources predict there won't be much news coverage of this initiative. And certainly don't look for polling on this initiative from such outfits as Field, PPIC or the L.A. Times. Reason: the issues are very confusing to the voting public. On the other hand, there's no denying that *traffic* and *highway construction* are big issues now – especially in light of all the news about higher gas prices (and the high gas and sales taxes which go for construction). So just perhaps the mainstream media and pollsters might pay attention...

...Why is this initiative even on the ballot? Long story, but here's the short version. While he was governor, Pete Wilson tried with some success to break the strangle hold of public sector engineers (PECG), most of whom work for Cal-Trans, to allow private firms to compete for publicly funded jobs (highways, schools, jails, etc.). PECG decided to go the initiative route to stop this – and also filed a lawsuit. The initiative just missed the Nov. 1996 ballot, but did make the June 1998 ballot. But before the '98 election, the Calif. Supreme Court (May 1997) ruled that any job which has ever been done by a civil servant, must always be done by a civil servant. This ruling basically threw private sector engineers out of all Cal-Trans work and earthquake retrofitting work...

...So PECG got what it wanted from Wilson's court, which is the irony of this whole thing. However, the initiative in the form of Prop. 224 actually went beyond the court ruling and PECG wanted to *push the envelope*. That's why we had this big special interest initiative war in June of 1998. PECG's initiative lost by a margin of 61.9% NO to 38.1% YES...

...If approved by voters, the current initiative would overturn the CA Supreme Court decision. That brings everything back to square one. Right now engineers and architects are in short supply and Cal-Trans is hiring, as well as hiring out to private firms to do the work – which is why those opposed to this initiative say it is unnecessary...

...The YES side goes by the name of Taxpayers for Fair Competition, while the NO side goes by Californians Opposed to School & Road Delay. The NO side claims there *could be* unanticipated consequences if this initiative passes, which in turn *could* cause construction delays. The YES side says hog wash! Both sides have amassed huge numbers of endorsements – too numerous to list. Needless to say, organized labor is on the NO side and most all major business groups are on the YES side. The YES side's campaign will be run by Woodward & McDowell, while Hopcraft Communications is doing the NO side. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: 36th CD – Kuykendall vs. Harman.

Editor's note: Last week Calpeek focused on the 27th CD seat of GOP U.S. Rep. James Rogan of Glendale. This week we'll look at U.S. Rep. Steve Kuykendall (R-Palos Verdes), who faces a very tough reelection battle with former Congresswoman Jane Harman (D). If the Demos are to recapture the House, this CD is one they need to win. Most sources currently rate the contest as a *toss up*. Here's our update and analysis...

...Knocking off an incumbent is never an easy task, but in the 36th CD now held by freshman Steve Kuykendall, Demos think that former Congresswoman Jane Harman has a good-to-excellent shot at recapturing her old seat in L.A. Co.'s South Bay area. Here's the reasoning: 1) Some voters still think Harman is the incumbent; 2) Harman has higher name ID than Kuykendall; 3) Harman will raise more money than Kuykendall; 4) Although he was viewed and voted as a moderate while in the State Assembly, during this first term in the U.S. House, Kuykendall has often voted with the conservative leadership of the House (in other words, he's followed the party-line); 5) Kuykendall doesn't have much to show for his 1st term...

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... The rebuttal from the Kuykendall side is that Harman walked away from the 36th CD because she wanted another job – and there's no reason to throw Kuykendall out of office simply because "Jane wants her job back." And it won't be easy defeating Kuykendall because he's a very hard worker and has never lost an election. He has always been underestimated by his opponents...

... The CD remains a *swing district*, with 41.28% Demo vs. 39.33% GOP registration – and 14.62% being independent (DTS). Those are the key voters. In the primary, Kuykendall had *light* opposition from hardliner Robert Pegram. He got 84% of the GOP vote vs. 16% for Pegram. In the open primary, Kuykendall got 42.5% to lead the field. Harman also had *light* opposition from James Cavuoto. Harman got 87.5% of the Demo vote and 40.7% in the open primary. In November, sources anticipate a *higher Demo* and DTS vote --- and there's already some evidence that the GOP presidential nominee, George W. Bush, won't have *political coattails* for down-ballot GOP candidates...

... Looking at the money, in the 12/31/99 report, Kuykendall had \$248,000 cash-on-hand vs. only \$98,000 for Harman. But in the most recent report, Harman went on a tear and raised \$366,549 to end up with \$392,435 cash vs. \$222,641 for Kuykendall. Sources think Harman will have a 2-to-1 lead with the next report...

... In terms of Harman's past 3 terms in the House, she was a hardliner on defense, socially moderate and fiscally conservative. And she had lots of GOP support in the 36th CD and many GOPers will be with her again, but there's no doubt she has lost some to Kuykendall. FYI: Greer, Margolis, Mitchell, Burns will handle paid media for Harman, with Garin Hart & Yang on polling. Although in past campaigns Harman has used media consultant Bob Shrum, the GMMB fit works well because of Roy Behr, who has worked with Harman in '92, '94 and '96. McNally, Temple & Associates are lead consultants for Kuykendall, with Steve Kinney of Public Opinion Strategies on polling. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: COSTA'S REMAP INITIATIVE GETS FUNDING FROM CALIF. HOUSE GOP AND FROM NRCC

Editor's note: Demo sources call Ted Costa's 2nd attempt to qualify an initiative dealing with reapportionment reform *The Bastard of Prop. 24* – the ill-fated initiative which got the necessary signatures, but was tossed off the ballot by the Calif. Supreme Court because it violated the constitution's *single subject law*. Here's our update & analysis...

... Costa's initiative, which calls for the State Supreme Court to appoint a panel of 3 retired justices to draw new Legislative and Congressional lines, is only 1 of 5 initiatives now in

circulation statewide dealing with reapportionment. But it's the only one with any financial backing. CA Sec. of State Bill Jones(R) has two plans: one would require a 2/3rds vote to approve new districts, while the other would set up a 17-member commission to draw new lines. Paul Rolf Jensen has remapping being done by a 5-member commission and William Westmiller has remapping being handled by Jones...

... Why even mess with reapportionment reform? It's a GOP obsession, especially among U.S. House members from Calif., who continually say that if the Demos redraw lines next year, Republicans may lose an additional 8-10 seats. Maybe, maybe not. But the fear is enough to have caused the Nat'l Republican Congressional Committee(NRCC) and most of Calif.'s GOP House delegation to put up about \$1.3 million last year to qualify Prop. 24 – only to see it tossed off the ballot...

... As was reported in the news media, the NRCC has now given an additional \$170,000 to assist Costa in his final push for signatures. Costa claims to have collected 200,000 up to this point --- and hopes to get another 700,000 prior to May 1st --- the day when he plans to submit signatures to the various county registrars. He needs 670,816 valid signatures. Jones' office recommends that signatures be submitted around April 20th. FYI: The NRCC contribution isn't nearly enough to do the job. Realistically, Costa needs about 1.1 or 1.2 million raw signatures to qualify – not 900,000. The 900,000 doesn't leave enough room for mistakes...

... Will Costa make it? Perhaps, but even high ranking GOP insiders have their doubts. And if he should pull it off, the odds of passing such an initiative are rated *slim or none*. Since 1982, voters have rejected four(4) GOP-sponsored attempts at taking reapportionment away from the Legislature and turning it over to a special panel. It's a GOP power grab and voters won't go for it...

... FYI: Another reason why Calif. GOP House members want remapping done by a panel of independent judges is that they simply don't trust Calif. GOP Legislative members. There's *no love lost* between these two groups of GOPers, because Prop. 24 (sponsored by GOP U.S. House members) masked the remapping reform with a legislative salary cut. As far as some GOP legislative members are concerned, it's payback time – and sources say several GOP lawmakers have approached Demos leaders in Sacto, offering to cut deals at the expense of current GOP congressmembers. GOP U.S. House members are said to be on this hit list include Bill Thomas, Mary Bono, John Doolittle and Duncan Hunter. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: DIFI VS. CAMPBELL FOR SENATE.

Editor's note: If you had to take a bet right now, U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D) would almost be a prohibitive favorite over U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell(R-San Jose) to win a 2nd full term to the U.S. Senate. Here's our first update...

...Just looking at the breakout of the Mar. 7th election, DiFi carried **all** of Calif.'s 58 counties – including Santa Clara, Campbell's home base. Feinstein got 51.3% of the open primary vote vs. 23.1% for Campbell...

...But this lopsided primary win for Feinstein has both an up and down side. The *upside* is that GOP contributors are going to think twice before giving money to Campbell. The *downside* is that Demo contributors keep telling DiFi that she's a slam dunk --- and that resources need to go to taking back the U.S. House. Very frustrating, but at least DiFi has *deep pockets* --- if she needs them...

...Most of the polls continue to show Feinstein with lead of 18-23 points, depending. That lead will narrow as the campaign moves through the rest of the spring into summer and finally into fall. But the bottomline is that Campbell has yet to crack 38% in the Field Poll. The GOP base vote is about 36%...

...Campbell's biggest problem is that he's taken some very controversial stands on some timely and hot issues. For example, he's for taxing the internet (not too smart for a guy whose home base is the Silicon Valley) and he favors this experimental drug-give away program. Just wait until George W. Bush is asked to comment on Campbell's stands. And Campbell has this thing about Israel. Must be the water because both former GOP Congressmen Pete McCloskey and Ed Zschau were anti-Israel too...

...And now to Bush. If Campbell is to have any shot at an upset, Bush has to do better than he's doing now --- VP Al Gore is ahead of Bush in Calif. by a margin of 10-pts. in the last Field Poll: 51% to 41%, with 8% undecided. The feeling among most Demo political consultants is that by late fall Bush will still be behind Gore in double-digits and won't be in Calif. when it counts. Will this actually happen? Top GOP officials in Calif. say no way, but don't bet your first born. It's happened in the last two presidential races...

...FYI: here's something else to think about. Between now and Nov. 7th it is estimated there will be 600,000 new U.S. citizens in Calif., of which 250,000 will be registered to vote. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: UPDATE ON L.A. COUNTY DA RACE.

Editor's note: The battle between incumbent L.A. Co. DA Gil Garcetti and Chief Deputy DA Steve Cooley seems to have taken a back seat to the *nuclear war* between Garcetti and LAPD Chief Bernard Parks over what's simply called the *Rampart Scandal*. Here's our brief update & analysis...

...The Rampart Scandal is known to political insiders all across Calif. and even the U.S. – thanks to the internet. And just about any political insider has an opinion. The unfolding story and war between Garcetti and Parks changes almost daily. Lost in the shuffle is Cooley, but he doesn't seem to mind at this point because the heated exchanges between Parks and Garcetti is really beginning to infuriate the voting public. As one insider told Calpeek, "When the highly controversial Belmont Learning Center fiasco is thrown together with the Rampart Scandal, it makes the entire City of L.A. look *dysfunctional*. And county voters could take their frustrations out on the only elected official who faces them this year: DA Gil Garcetti."...

...No reason to rehash the war of words between Garcetti and Parks over who said and did what regarding the Rampart probe, but the bottomline is that most insiders think Garcetti comes off looking better than Parks, who appears to be employing a CYA strategy. Remember: from 1991-92, Parks was head of the Central Bureau which included Ramparts. When he was demoted by ex Chief Willie Williams in '94, Parks was put in charge of BSI (Bureau of Special Investigations), of which Internal Affairs was a part. And the one unanswered questions is: didn't the IA folks have a clue as to what was going on at Ramparts???...

...Back to Cooley. He's been making fundraising calls and working with his fundraising committee, has put together a series of small events to keep the money flowing. As one might suspect, with Cooley's 1st place showing Mar. 7th, the chief deputy DA has been getting all kinds of calls from individuals offering help. As of 3/21, Cooley held a 15,990 vote lead over Garcetti. Cooley ended up with 38.37% vs. 37.29% for Garcetti. For the record, back in 1992 when Garcetti beat then incumbent DA Ira Reiner, Garcetti got 34% in the primary vs. 25.7% for Reiner. Back then the big case was Rodney King...

...FYI: In terms of strategy for the runoff, there was some hint that Garcetti's team might try to turn the runoff into a partisan battle – label Cooley as a partisan, conservative GOPER. Sources in the Cooley camp say they won't be caught off guard. The Cooley campaign is lining up a number of prominent Demos who will endorse Cooley at the proper time. The Cooley campaign also showcase that endorsement by L.A. Weekly – probably the most liberal

news media outlet in L.A. County. Speaking of endorsements, the Antelope Valley Press endorsed Cooley on Mar. 18th. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ ***Long Beach Council Elections*** – The State's 5th largest city holds a muni primary April 11th, with a runoff June 6th. All even-numbered council seats are up. Sources predict 2nd District incumbent Dan Baker will win the primary outright. In the 4th District, incumbent Del Roosevelt faces Dennis Carroll, who came within 200 votes of beating Roosevelt 4 years ago. The biggest contests are in the 6th and 8th Districts where incumbents Doris Topsy-Elvord and Jeff Kellogg are *termed out*. In the 6th, Elvord staffer Laura Richardson-Batts is running against Wayne Parks and 3 others. In the 8th, the favorite is Kellogg staffer Rob Webb, but he faces 4 others, thus a runoff is likely here...

■ ***Check This Out.*** Here in Calif., Demo pollster Jim Moore of Sacto tested GOP presidential candidate George W. Bush against Moore's good friend, Demo political consultant David Townsend. For this poll, Moore described Townsend only as a Demo businessman. In the 1-on-1 match, Bush got 49% vs. 20% for Townsend. What does that tell you about Bush in Calif.???

■ ***Calpeek's Legal File*** – Attorney Mike Schroeder has filed a lawsuit against the City of Irvine and 4 councilmembers --- accusing them of improperly using about \$300,000 in city funds for GOTV, phone banks and a/v mailers to voters – all in connection with the YES on Measure F campaign in Orange Co. on Mar. 7th. Technically, the city can use taxpayer funds to “educate the voters” about the issue of the *proposed airport at El Toro*. But it is a very fine line. The councilmembers named in the suit say they checked with the city attorney before and that the lawsuit is without merit. We'll keep you posted...

■ ***Do As I Say, Not As I Do*** – Calif. Republican Party Chair John McGraw distributed a news release urging the supporters of Prop. 26 to “accept the decision of the voters who rejected the reduction of the 2/3rds vote requirement for local school bonds.” And this is from a guy who made a deal with the YES on 26 campaign to keep the CRP's NO on 26 official position off the CRP slate card. Incredible!!!

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: Betty Wilson, a founder of the city of Santa Fe Springs and the first woman mayor of any city in L.A. Co., has died. She was 85. R.I.P...

● Another sad note: Edward Mills, a CRP finance chair and member of Ronald Reagan's “kitchen cabinet” while RR was governor, has died. He was 94. R.I.P...

● Susan K. Burr has been named interim Secretary for Education by Gov. Davis. She replaces Gary Hart, who resigned...

● Alison Mulka leaves Godbe Research after 3 years to become director of business development at S.F.-based Vantage International, a marketing research firm...

● L.A.-based Rogers & Associates has hired 4 new account supervisors: Derek Aney, Eric Nasarenko and Stephan Phippen. R&A also hired Michael Diamond as a management supervisor...

● S.F.-based Solem & Associates has hired Deborah E. Cantu as a Sr. VP and Frank Gallagher as an AE...

● Elizabeth L. Gade is a new partner with the Sacto-based law firm of Olson, Hagel, Leidigh, Waters & Fishburn. And joining the firm as associates are Deborah B. Caplan and Sarah E. Gilmer. Cindy A. Broughton is the new business mgr. at the firm...

● L.A.-based Cerrell Associates, Inc. has promoted Lisa Brown to Sr. AE and Courtney Chesla to Asst. AE. New hires include Mary Elizabeth Michaels as an Asst. AE and Lauren Dunwoody as an Acct. coordinator...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Apr. 9	CA Nat'l Convention Delegation meeting.
Apr. 13	19 th Annual Pat Brown Inst. Awards Dinner, Regal Biltmore Hotel, L.A.
June 8	VICA's 23 rd Annual dinner, Universal City.
July 31 – Aug. 3	RNC Presidential convention – Philadelphia.
Aug. 14-17	DNC Presidential convention – L.A.
Sept. 15-17	CRP convention – Palm Springs.
Oct. 10	Last day to register to vote.
Oct. 31	Last day to apply for absentee ballot.
Nov. 7	Election day.
Dec. 18	Electoral College delegates meet in Sacto.